

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A replacement sheet of Fig. 3 designated as "PRIOR ART" is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

A replacement sheet for Fig. 3, now designated as "PRIOR ART", is submitted herewith.

A substitute specification (including a new Abstract on a separate sheet) is submitted herewith along with a marked-up copy of the original specification. The substitute specification corrects the errors noted in the Office Action without introducing new matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the prior art rejections. The claim now recites, *inter alia*, that the cylindrical bore has a cross-section of a polygonal shape and that each of the pair of movable pieces has a cross-section of polygonal shape corresponding to the polygonal shape cross-section of the cylinder bore. Minor editorial amendments have also been made in the claim.

These features of the invention, that distinguish the invention from the Japanese reference relied upon in the prior art rejections, are described in the substitute specification on page 12, lines 13-22. The practical significance of these features is apparent in the following description.

In a normal driving state where the axial positional relationship between an outer column and an inner column is fixed, vibration or shock is transmitted between a steering wheel and the inner column by clamping the movable pieces. According to the invention of claim 1 as amended above, the cross-section of the cylinder bore has a polygonal shape, and the cross-section of each movable piece has a corresponding polygonal shape, so that vibration or shock applied to the inner column can be supported by flat surfaces of each movable piece, unlike the situation when the cylinder bore and the movable pieces have circular cross-section. In the invention, stable sliding movement of the movable pieces for clamping or unclamping operation is attained. Further, counterforce generated, when the movable pieces are pressed against the inner column for clamping, is supported by flat surfaces.

In the Japanese reference the cross-sectional shape of the cylinder bore and each movable piece is circular, so the advantages of the present invention are not achieved.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 should be allowed and that this application should be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-9964) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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